

HONORING COLONEL JOAL
EMERSON WOLF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Joal Emerson Wolf of the U.S. Army Reserves for his dedicated service to the United States of America. Colonel Wolf's colleagues, family, and friends gathered on January 20, 2006 at Bolling Air Force Base to celebrate his promotion to the rank of Colonel.

Colonel Wolf has dutifully served our Nation's military since 1983. Most recently he distinguished himself as the Commander of the 3401st Military Intelligence Detachment, and Staff of the Iraq Intelligence Task Force and the Iraq Working Group of the Joint Staff at the Defense Intelligence Agency. Colonel Wolf honors his family's military legacy with his selfless commitment to the security of the American people. He comes from a distinguished family of military tradition: both his father, the late Dr. Alan Emerson Wolf, and his mother, Phyllis Marie Clairmont, served in military intelligence. I am honored to be married to Colonel Wolf's sister, Camille Spinello Andrews, and to say that he represents our family—as well as our Nation—with great honor and integrity.

Colonel Wolf is an inspiration to service members everywhere, and to all citizens of our great Nation. I commend and congratulate Colonel Wolf for his promotion to such an esteemed rank in the U.S. Army Reserves. We are all safer because of his service.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD BRAKE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Brake, who has played a vital role in the development of the Charles E. Brake Company of St. Thomas, Pennsylvania, since he joined them in 1954. Started by his father, Charles, in 1924, Harold has carried on the company's excavating duties until this day.

I have had the privilege of watching the Charles E. Brake Company succeed in expanding their business operations into other areas of Pennsylvania, and even into Maryland. Today, the company has over 100 employees who have contributed to their community for over 75 years. Mr. Harold Brake saw the company develop through its most profitable years, as it grew from only six employees in 1954 to the 120 workers who are a part of the company today.

After serving for more than 50 years in the family-owned corporation, Harold Brake will soon retire from his duties as the Chairman. Although Harold will no longer be the official head of operations, his son, Randy Brake, is certain that Harold will always be involved in the family business. I owned a small business for years and I understand, along with many others across Pennsylvania, the day-in and day-out work it takes to succeed. I applaud Harold for his commitment to his community and his business.

As our economy continues to move in the right direction, our small businesses are the driving force. These businesses make up our communities, neighborhoods, and towns. The Pennsylvanians who have benefited from the efforts of the Charles E. Brake Company as a result of Harold's continued hard work would certainly join me in thanking Harold for his contributions to the community and the economy, as well as serving as an inspiration for the spirit of chivalrous virtue.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SHARON B.
WRIGHT, UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE NURSE CORPS, ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a great American and a true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 26 years in the Air Force Nurse Corps: Colonel Sharon B. Wright. Colonel Wright has a long history with the Air Force. She was born at Travis Air Force Base, California, and graduated from Hillcrest High School, Sumter, South Carolina, when her father, Chief Master Sergeant Edward J. Wright, was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. Colonel Wright followed the career path of her father, a 30-year Air Force Chief, and her mother, a licensed practical nurse, both natives and current residents of Charleston, South Carolina. In 1980, she was commissioned through ROTC, and she was then assigned to Mather Air Force Base, California. Experienced and desiring to make a difference, she next served at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, where she deployed to Honduras with the U.S. Army.

In each assignment she excelled and was rewarded with greater responsibilities and opportunities. In 1988, she became the Chief, Nurse Recruiting Branch, at Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama. A proven leader, she was the Top Recruiter in 1988 and 1991, and she received the Recruiting Standard of Excellence award in 1990. In 1991, she assumed duties as the Coordinator of Maternal Health Services at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. In 1994, Colonel Wright was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as a Nurse Utilization Officer. During her tenure she completed over 2000 assignments, managed five commands, and maintained staff levels at an unprecedented 95 plus percent.

In 1998, Colonel Wright assumed her first command at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. As the Squadron Commander, she also assumed the roles as the Chief Nurse Executive and Deputy Group Commander. Incirlik presented significant challenges. Three weeks after arrival, a devastating 6.3 earthquake hit. Colonel Wright took charge as the on-scene Medical Group Commander. After her stellar performance at Incirlik, she went on to her second assignment as Squadron Commander at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, in 1999. Her astute leadership led to her appointment as Deputy Program Executive Officer at the Joint Medical Information Systems Office and Force Development Program Manager at the Office

of the Surgeon General, at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC.

Colonel Wright's last assignment brought her back to Texas as the Chief, Nurse Utilization and Education Branch, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. In this position, she was responsible for managing assignments, career progression, and sponsored educational opportunities for 3,700 Air Force nurses. Colonel Wright is a meritorious leader, administrator, clinician, educator, and mentor. Throughout her career she has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Air Force Medical Service. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of a grateful nation for her over 26 years of dedicated military service. Congratulations, Colonel Sharon B. Wright. I wish you Godspeed.

GULF COAST DISASTER
RESPONSE, TRIBUTE AND THANKS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to commend the residents of the Seventh Congressional District and the people of southeastern Pennsylvania for their generosity and compassion toward the people of the gulf coast in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As vice chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I visited Louisiana 5 days after the storm hit, and witnessed the strength and resolve of the citizens and those working to save lives and restore order. This weekend I am pleased to host gulf coast first responders in my district to recognize their indomitable spirit and their great relief efforts. In the days and dark nights that followed the hurricane disasters, these first responders worked around the clock with remarkable resiliency in moving forward a person, a house, a building at a time.

More than 6 months have passed since the most devastating natural disaster in American history. In that time, as has been the case in every time of national crisis, the citizens of my region have opened their hearts to their fellow citizens.

Displaced residents were welcomed to our communities, schoolchildren held fundraisers, supplies were donated, prayers were said and communities sent their fire and EMS personnel to aid neighbors in towns hundreds of miles away, that were unknown to them weeks earlier. College students from my district are spending their spring break in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama assisting with the recovery and rebuilding effort.

To this day, our local citizens continue to donate money, time and effort to help rebuild this devastated part of our country. This spontaneous generosity—great and small, emotional and financial—of all of my constituents in the wake of this tragedy has been remarkable. I have never been more proud to represent the Seventh Congressional District. The extraordinary efforts of the residents of Delaware, Chester and Montgomery Counties are exemplary of the spirit of service that has made our Nation great.